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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
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1. COUNTRY: SOVIET UNION (UR); CUBA (CU)	2. REPORT NUMBER: 2 780 0813 79	
3. TITLE: Soviet Installation in Havana, Cuba	4. PROJECT NUMBER: 210130	
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14. SOURCE: 2 242 0132		
15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: This IIR should not receive foreign or contract consultant dissemination since such dissemination could lead to the compromise of the collection activity involved.		
16. SUMMARY: (C) This report contains information on an unidentified Soviet military installation in HAVANA, Cuba. Included is information on the location and configuration of the installation; the quarters and other buildings associated with the Soviet military personnel therein; limited data on Soviet personnel activities, and estimations of installation personnel strength. Data on a Soviet communications or possible SIGINT site is provided as well as the existence of a Soviet Cuban-Soviet "International Security Command" within the installation. A memory sketch of the installation is included.		
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22. DETAILS:		
<p>1. (C) The following is a description of an unidentified Soviet installation in Havana, Cuba:</p> <p>a. The approximate center of the installation is located at 23°06'36"N, 82°24'35"W (DMTC Map, Edition 2-DMTC, Series E 9210, Sheet 1, Stock No. E 9210700934).</p> <p>b. The installation lies in the Kohly district of Havana which is one of the highest areas in the city (about 45m above sea level). The Kohly district was formerly an area of expensive villas which were the homes of well-to-do Cubans. Many diplomats and foreigners also lived there.</p> <p>c. The exact boundaries of the installation were not defined except on the western side. The area under Soviet security control is generally an area in the shape of the letter "P". The western side, corresponding to the vertical axis of the "P", is formed by Avenida 49. The northern boundary was not directly observed. It is thought, however, to lie north of the eastward extension of Calle 34 which forms the rounded top of the letter "P" and curving south becomes Avenida 49-B. The installation is thought not to extend more than 200m north of this. The eastern boundary lies at or east of Avenida 49-B but probably does not extend east of the river which flows north approximately 200m east of Avenida 49-B. The southern border is probably located in the vicinity of an electric substation at 23°06'25"N, 82°24'30"W.</p> <p>d. No official or unofficial name for the installation was reported. See the memory sketch included in this report for visual description corresponding to the text of this report.</p> <p>2. (C) The following observations and conclusions concerning the Soviets who occupy this installation were made:</p> <p>a. Apparently Soviet personnel have been located in the area described above for some time. However, only recently has it become an exclusive enclave with no Cubans allowed except for occasional workmen. Beginning in, or perhaps before 1978, Cuban families residing in the area were forced to move elsewhere. The last Cuban family left the area in February 1979. The installation is now under total Soviet control and generally only Soviets are seen there. Access to the area is now controlled and the only known exits/entrances are Calle 34 and Calle 36 at Avenida 49. Soviet families now occupy all of the villas in the area and three new apartment buildings have been built to provide additional quarters. These buildings were built end to end in an east-west direction between Avenida 49A and Avenida 49B. They are five stories high and each floor contains six two-bedroom apartments. It is thought that these buildings were only completed in 1979. See the attached memory sketch.</p>		
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<p>b. In the area east of Avenida 49 and south of Calle 36A, the lower part of the vertical axis of the "P", many villas have been torn down and a multi-story building, referred to as a "hotel" by the Cubans, has been built. The hotel serves as quarters for Soviet personnel, perhaps bachelors or transients. The hotel has a large underground garage and large limousines have been observed driving in and out of it. The lower stories of the hotel contain what is referred to as the headquarters of the "International Security Command" a joint Soviet-Cuban military organization of unknown purpose.</p> <p>c. On one occasion in Spring 1979 at about 0500 hours a number of Soviet males were observed in athletic suits consisting of olive green bottoms and pink uppers.</p> <p>d. On another occasion, later in the morning, a number of Soviets in blue coveralls with white helmets were seen, which suggested to the observer that they were pilots.</p> <p>e. Frequently in the morning, five or six buses are seen in the installation picking up children, apparently taking them to school. It is known that Soviet children in Havana attend school in what was formerly called the "Ursulinas".</p> <p>f. Soviet personnel in this installation as well as other Soviets in the Havana area have their own beach, the Playa Veneziana, located at Boca Ciega, northeast of Havana.</p> <p>g. Cubans who have observed the Soviet military in this installation are of the opinion that they are mostly officers because they all seem to wear shoulder tabs with stars on them. On the other hand it is said that many of them are "conscripts", i.e., not professional military but rather Russians who are sent to Cuba to serve their military obligation.</p> <p>h. Various estimates of the number of Soviet persons in this installation have been made by Cubans ranging from 1-4000.</p> <p>3. (C) The following observations concerning a possible communications center in this installation were provided:</p> <p>a. Within the installation, Avenida 49A between the extension of Calle 36 and Calle 36A is lined with villas now quartering Soviet families. At the intersection of Calle 36A and Avenida 49A, the house on the northeast corner was once the residence of the US military attache when the US still had diplomatic relations with Cuba. Directly across from it, on the northeast corner, is a large, three-story villa which was formerly owned by the Roberts family (NFI). This building appears to serve as a Soviet communications center now.</p>		
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<p>b. The villa formerly contained 8-10 bedrooms, but additions have been made to it recently. Further, a new, higher wall has been built around it. In late 1978 eight large air conditioners were delivered to the house for installation.</p> <p>c. The roof of the house has 7-8 large antennas on it. Beginning in November or December 1978, a trench was dug from the house northward up Avenida 49A. Concrete was poured in the bottom of the trench and concrete blocks with holes in them were set up vertically in the cement. A 10-15cm diameter, lead-sheathed coaxial cable, was then strung along the trench through the holes in the block. Finally more concrete was poured and the trench was covered up. The cable runs from the house to a large antenna mounted on the highest point of ground north of the extension of Calle 34.</p> <p>d. On several occasions Cuban workmen in the area have seen the First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, Fidel Castro, enter the building. He has never been observed to leave, however. One Cuban once asked one of Castro's military escorts when Castro would come out of the building. He received the answer that Castro "would not leave the building by its front door." It is common knowledge among Cuban workmen on the installation that there are several underground tunnels leading to buildings there. The Cubans call them "Respididos" or "breathers". It is believed that one such tunnel leads to this house; another is thought to lead to the three recently-built apartment buildings just to the northwest. During their construction it was noted that extremely deep holes were dug into the ground beneath them. A third tunnel allegedly leads from the Soviet "hotel" and headquarters of the "International Security Command". It is not known where the tunnels go or if they are interconnected.</p> <p>ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: (C/MOFORM) The information in this report was provided by a [redacted] having extensive contacts within the US Cuban community. These contacts recently visited Cuba where they learned the information cited above. Information in this report may respond to requirement: in CIR U-AES-42041.</p>		<p>(Leave Blank)</p>
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